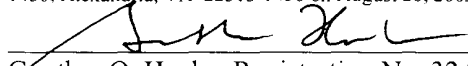


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Patent Status Inquiry; Commissioner for Patents; P.O. Box  
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Gunther O. Hanke, Registration No. 32,989

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Harold Aberman, Timothy Simon and Douglas Jackson
Filed	:	Herewith
Serial No.	:	Unassigned
Divisional of Serial No.	:	09/797,444
Title	:	CARTILAGE REPAIR PLUG
Prior Group Art Unit	:	3738
Prior Examiner	:	Phan, Hieu
Docket No.	:	CHOND.65022
Customer No.	:	27629

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Applications  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits, please cancel without prejudice claims 1-16 and  
amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) [The bridged plug device of claim 1] A bridged cartilage plug device for  
insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living mammal, comprising a continuous upper  
surface and a plurality of anchoring elements extending therefrom, wherein said upper surface is  
mechanically joined to said anchoring elements.